

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COME TO RECEIVE – GO TO SHARE
December 25, 2024

The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Day

✠ Gathering ✠

Pre-Service Christmas Music

Welcome and Announcements

Stand

Carol: 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367

Invocation

- P** In the name of God the Father, our loving Creator;
C **In the name of God the Son, our beautiful Savior;**
- P** In the name of God the Holy Spirit, our blessed Comforter.
C **Amen.**

Christmas Call to Worship

Psalm 98

- P** ¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.
- C** ²**The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
- P** ³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
- C** ⁴**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**
- P** ⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!

C ⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

P ⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who dwell in it!

C ⁸Let the rivers clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together
⁹before the LORD, for he comes
to judge the earth.

P He will judge the world with righteousness,

C and the peoples with equity.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Let us pray to God in confession, and seek His mercy for our sins.

Kneel/Sit

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P All-knowing, all-seeing God,

C You have made your love known to us in the birth of Your Son,
Jesus. In Christ Your light has shone upon us. In our human
weakness, we have chosen to walk in ignorance and to live in
darkness. We have not been faithful disciples and followers of
Jesus, even while we are celebrating His incarnation. Forgive us,
O God. Heal and strengthen us, for the sake of Christ our Savior.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for
His sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus
Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on
them the Holy Spirit. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I
forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of
the Holy Spirit.

C Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

P And peace to His people on earth!

C Amen.

Stand

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Hymn: 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christmas Prayer

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

✠ Service of the Word ✠

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 62:10–12

¹⁰Go through, go through the gates;
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway;
clear it of stones;
lift up a signal over the peoples.
¹¹Behold, the LORD has proclaimed

to the end of the earth:
Say to the daughter of Zion,
“Behold, your salvation comes;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.”
¹²And they shall be called The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD;
and you shall be called Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Titus 3:4–7

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Verse for Christmas Day: Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374

1 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.

Holy Gospel

John 1:1–14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven**

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

Carol: 364 Away in a Manger

LSB 364

Sermon

Offering

Offertory Hymn: 386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

LSB 386

Stand

Prayer of the Church

- P** Filled with the good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, and for all people.

A brief silence.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, as You have caused Your eternal light to dawn on our darkness in the incarnation of Your only begotten Son, cause His glory to shine on us in the grace and truth of His Word, that we may receive Him with joy and believe in His name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Be near to those who suffer persecution for the sake of Your Son. As oppression seeks to quench His light in them, sustain them in the truth that the darkness cannot overcome Him. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P As our families gather in this holy season, give us patience, that we may be slow to judge and quick to forgive. Comfort the lonely with Your presence, and help us extend the welcome of our homes and the friendship of Your grace. Make us mindful of those less fortunate, who celebrate this blessed feast in poverty and want, and teach us to be generous. Accept with our offerings the living sacrifice of our bodies to Your service and our voices in praise and thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Your Son took up our flesh so that He might heal and restore it, according to Your good purposes. Let His healing hand be upon the sick and those who suffer in our midst (*especially* ...). Comfort those who grieve this day with the truth that the Babe of Bethlehem was born so that the dead might live. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We commend these prayers to You, O God, trusting Your grace make known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

Preface

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P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good and right that we should offer thanks and praise to You, Lord God, eternal Father. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh You have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of Your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ∇ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ∇ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Christmas Peace

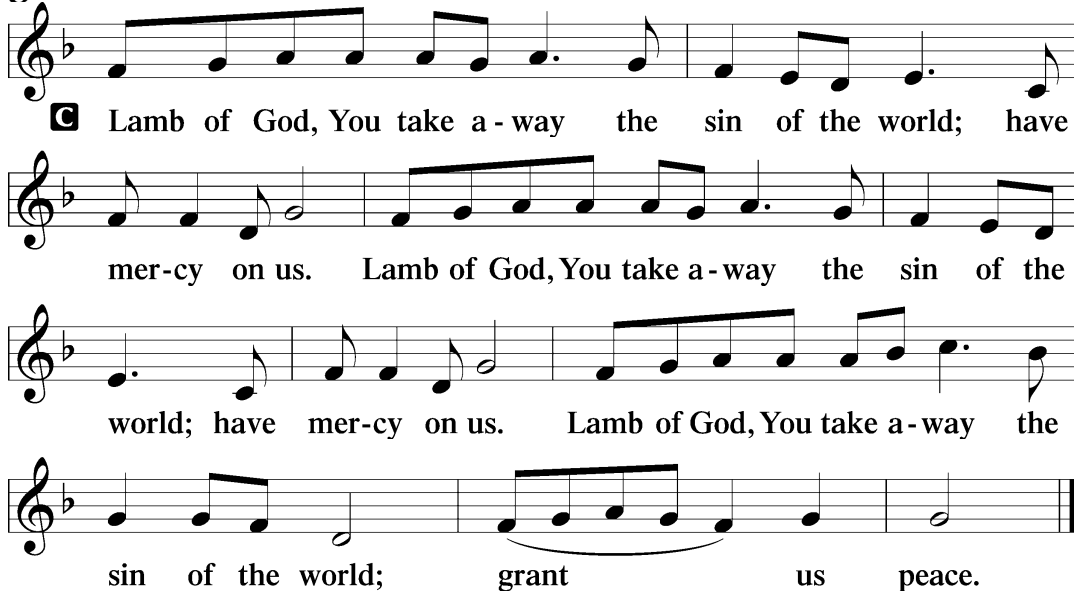
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P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

163



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution of Holy Communion

We believe, teach and confess that those who commune receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord---in, with and under the bread and wine---for forgiveness of sins and strengthening in faith and life. All baptized, believing Christian guests are invited to examine themselves, as exhorted by St. Paul. Those who are in agreement with this statement are invited to join us at the Altar. If you have a question regarding this, please ask to speak with the Pastor or one of the Elders.

Both individual and common cups are available. Also, if you would prefer to receive non-alcoholic white grape juice, there are individual cups in the center of the tray.

Please hand your completed family attendance card to the usher on your way to receive communion.

Distribution Carol: 362 O Sing of Christ

LSB 362

Stand

The Dismissal

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Holy God, with our eyes we have seen Your salvation, and in this meal have feasted on Your grace.
- C** **May Your Word take flesh in us, that we may be Your holy people, revealing Your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Benediction

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- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Hymn to Depart: 368 Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368

Christmas Dismissal

- A** Christ, the Savior, is born!
- C** **Joy to the world!**
- A** Go in peace, and serve the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Acknowledgments

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